

Wallingford Chorus is Seeking Piano Accompanist for Fall/Winter 2017

About Us:

The Wallingford Chorus is a 47-year old organization comprised of 50 members, young and old, who seek to have fun, improve the quality of their voices, learn musicality, and build friendships through the singing of choral music. We present 2 concerts a year to the community of Wallingford (one in December and one in May), attracting an average audience of 350 people at each concert. Most recently, our concerts have featured more popular and contemporary choral music.

About the Position:

Our most recent accompanist had been with the chorus for over 40 years and recently decided to retire. We are therefore seeking a new piano accompanist to rehearse and perform with us for our Holiday 2017 concert to be held on December 9, 2017.

This will be a 4-month, contracted engagement which will start at our first rehearsal on September 12, 2017 and will end at the closing of our concert on December 9, 2017.

At the end of the engagement, upon mutual agreement by the accompanist and the chorus, there may be the opportunity to renew the contract for the Spring 2018 concert season.

Job Description:

The piano accompanist will serve as the musical foundation for the chorus. At each rehearsal, the piano accompanist will play not only the full music accompaniment, but should be also be able to isolate voice parts, either separately or mixed, and play particular passages as requested by the musical director. The accompanist will have keen listening skills to be able to hear where various voice parts are missing notes or not interpreting musical notations correctly, and will bring these problem areas to the attention of the director and the chorus. The accompanist should also be aware during rehearsals of when pitches are needed, when the full accompaniment should be dropped in favor of voice parts, and when tempos might need to change in order to help the chorus learn the music.

At the concert, the piano accompanist will not only accompany the chorus, s/he will also collaborate and play with other instrumentalists who may be brought in to enhance the sound. There may also be opportunities for the performance of piano solo or small ensemble-based instrumental pieces.

The accompanist's attendance at all rehearsals and the concert are critical to the success of our chorus. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays, 7:30pm-9:30pm, at Lyman Hall High School, 92 Pond Hill Road, Wallingford, CT in the Band Room. The Holiday 2017 concert will be held at the Church of the Resurrection, 115 Pond Hill Road, Wallingford, CT.

The selected accompanist needs to possess not only the musical and performance skills necessary to support our chorus, but also a friendly, helpful, and generally positive attitude. Our members span the spectrum in terms of age and vocal ability. Anyone accompanying our group needs to be patient as we are learning new music and getting to know each other.

Job Requirements:

- Experience accompanying a choir or chorus
- Attendance at all scheduled Tuesday night rehearsals, the Dress Rehearsal on Friday, December 8, 2017 and at the Concert on Saturday, December 9, 2017
- Commitment to practice and perform 10-12 songs chosen by the director
- Strong piano performance ability (applicants will be required to audition with our Music Director and attend a trial rehearsal with the chorus)
- Flexibility and willingness to play both contemporary, traditional, and sacred music depending on the program designed by the director
- Willing to assist singers with learning the music
- Serious enough mindset to focus in rehearsal, but with an infectious love of music and an ability to share the joy of making music with others

Optional Requirements:

Ability to lead a sectional rehearsal as needed. The accompanist would obtain a list of passages to work on from the director. The accompanist would then review and rehearse the indicated passages with the individual section to work on pitches, phrasing, dynamics, etc. Experience or training leading a vocal group would be helpful.

Attendance and Participation at meetings of the Chorus Board of Directors. The tentative dates for the board meetings are:

- Sunday, October 8, 2017 – 2pm at Wallingford Parks and Rec
- Sunday, November 5, 2017 – 2pm at Wallingford Parks and Rec
- Tuesday, November 28, 2017 – 6:30pm at Lyman Hall

Salary:

The salary range for this 4-month, contracted engagement is \$2400 - \$3200 commensurate with experience.

To Apply:

Send an email and resume to wallingfordchorus@gmail.com. Please include a sample of your piano playing either as an attachment or as a link. Deadline for applications is September 8, 2017.